

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-07 /095 W
-----034826 011021Z /17

P R 010945Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIRORITY 2144
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN
EUCOM
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4137

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, US, CY
SUBJ: ECEVIT'S HANDLING OF US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP
AND THE PROBLEM OF NATIONALISM

1. WE HAVE IN PAST EXPRESSED OUR VIEW THAT AN EMOTIONAL
AND CHAUVINISTIC NATIONALISM CAN TAKE ROOT HERE, INTENSIFIED
BY WHAT TURKS SEE AS INJUSTICES OF US EMBARGO. IN
TURKEY, AS IN US AND OTHER COUNTRIES, THERE IS
ALWAYS A DANGER THAT POLITICAL LEADERS, IN RESPONDING TO SENSE OF
PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL PRIDE WILL BE TEMPTED TO EXCESSES
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AND WHIP UP DISTORTED AND ANTI-FOREIGN FORMS OF NATIONALISM.
JACK ANDERSON'S COLUMN OF MAY 21 MADE USE, OUT OF CONTEXT, OF SOME
OF OUR COMMENTS IN THIS REGARD.

2. IN MARCH I EXPRESSED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MY CON-
CERN THAT IF EMBARGO IS LIFTED THERE WILL BE A FEELING HERE THAT
THIS SUCCESS SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO "TALKING TOUGH" TO

THE AMERICANS, AND THAT THE WRONG LESSON WILL BE LEARNED ABOUT THE WAY TO DEAL WITH US THAT WILL MAKE THE PROBLEM OF REPAIRING THE DAMAGE DONE TO US RELATIONSHIP BY THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND THE EMBARGO MORE DIFFICULT. THIS CONCERN PEAKED IN MARCH, PARTICULARLY WITH ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS IN MONTREUX AND BEFORE THE SENATE.

3. SINCE THAT TIME OUR CONCERNS HAVE LESSENERED SUBSTANTIALLY. AT THE NATO SUMMIT, AND IN THEIR RECENT HANDLING OF OUR RELATIONS, ECEVIT AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE ACTED WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND STATESMANSHIP. THE FEARS WE HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED ABOUT APPEALS BY PRIME MINISTER AND GOVERNMENT TO THE LESS ATTRACTIVE CURRENTS OF NATIONAL FEELING HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE CONSIDER THAT THE HANDLING OF THE US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN TREATED WITH SUBSTANTIAL MATURITY AND SKILL AND THAT MAJOR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO AVOID POTENTIALLY NASTY SITUATION.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALISM, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA04137
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-0145
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806109/aaaadpvf.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08b1c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2168918
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT'S HANDLING OF US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP AND THE PROBLEM OF NATIONALISM
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, US, CY, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08b1c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014